

PIC/D-160-59
14 October 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Apparent Discrepancies Between 117L and
C Assembly Facilities

1. As volunteered to you briefly on 12 October after the Senior Staff Meeting and now in response to your request, I would offer the following extract from one of our memoranda for the record:

"In reviewing the plant in which the nose cones for Project 117L are being assembled, it has been noted that great care is taken to create an atmosphere of surgical sterility. This includes the changing of clothes, complete bathing, surgical garments, face masks, hats, etc. Even a wind tunnel which dries and filters air at 40 to 50 miles per hour removes any remaining lint or dust from the person before he enters the room. Positive air pressure affects temperature and humidity control throughout the interior chambers of the operation. Large heavy castings for precise optical alignment and vibration simulation of the most sophisticated, costly and up-to-date design fill several of the spacious preparation rooms. Contrasting sharply with the picture of this sterile, highly controlled environment, it has been noted that the "C" facility has the atmosphere of somewhat less than ideal cleanliness factors with no apparent controls for pressure, humidity, dust and temperature, but rather the appearance of a highly technical and complex machine assembly plant. It is impossible for us to evaluate the difference in these two methodologies but there can be little doubt that we are dealing with two very separate and distinct methods of accomplishing analogous end products. Certainly the 117L facility is more expensive even though the complexity and technology presented are similar."

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL
Director
Photographic Intelligence Center

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